ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

COLBERT ASSOCIATION

MISSIONARY BAPTISTS.

Held With First Church,

Tuscumbia, Ala., October 15 and 16, 1897.

OFFICERS:—A. J. IVIE, Moderator, Sheffield, Ala.
O. E. COMSTOCK, Sr., Clerk, "
C. A. WOMBLE, Treas, Tuscumbia.

EXECUTIVE BOARD:—W. M. WHITLOCK, Chairman.
A. L MOODY, A. S. LITTLE, STEPHEN AYCOCK, W. RAMSEY.

REAPER PRINT, SHEFFIELD.

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Joint Letter of Dismission.

This is to Certify, that the following Churches were dismissed from the Muscle Shoals Association of Baptists, at its session at Hartselle, held September 30th, October 1st and 2d, 1897, at their own request, for the purpose of joining the Colbert Association: viz, First church, Sheffield; Furnace Hill, Sheffield; Tuscumbia, Siloam; Bethel, in Colbert; Liberty and Mt. Stanley,

Jos. Shackelford,

Danville, Ala., Oct. 5, 1897. Clerk.

MINUTES.

Tuscumbia, Ala., October 15, 1897.

The delegates comprising the First Annual Session of the COLBERT ASSOCIATION, of Missionary Baptists, met with the Tuscumbia Baptist church, on Friday, before the third Sabbath in October, 1897. The meeting was called to order at ten a.m. by the Moderator, Bro. A. J. Ivie, after devotional exercises, Judge W. D. Chitwood was introduced to the audience by Bro. Ivie. Brother Chitwood delivered an address of welcome in behalf of the Church and Citizens of Tuscumbia, his words of welcome were interesting and highly appreciated by the delegates and messengers.

After the Judge's address, Elder O. E. Comstock, sr. replied in behalf of the Association, in few well chosen words. The hour having arrived for the Annual Sermon, after a few moments recess the choir sang a voluntary, Elder Mack Stamps then entered the pulpit, after the regular opening service, preached a most excellent sermon, text, Deut: 33:26-9; the audience was well pleased and all felt "it was good to be here". The closing prayer was made by brother Comstock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At two o'clock the delegates assembled while the choir sang. Prayer by Elder J. S. Gibson. Moderator called for letters from the Churches who met at Sheffield, which were received as follows:

TUSCUMBIA, A. L. Moody, W. E. Aycock, C. A. Womble.

SHEFFIELD, Mack Stamps, C. T. Morris, Wm. Mays, A. J. Ivie

RIVERTON, J. L. Reeves, (None of the regular delegates could come and brother Reeves came to represent the church.)

VALLEY GROVE, J. R. Nesmith, J. Q. Aycock, Lee Thomason, N. S. Counts.

FURNACE HILL, Granville Bridges, J. T. Gay, J. W. Reynolds, O. E. Comstock, sr.

CHEROKEE, W. M. Whitlock, J. E. Finnie, Robt. Moore.

After the letters were read, the election of officers was taken up and resulted as follows: Moderator, A. J. Ivie; Clerk, O. E. Comstock, sr. Treasurer, C. A. Womble.

On motion of brother A. L. Moody, the following Order of business was adopted.

1. Introductory Sermon at eleven o'clock.
2. After intermission the Moderator shall call the Association to order and appoint reading clerks.
3. Read letters from the Churches and enroll delegates.
4. Elect officers.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Call for Correspondence from other bodies.
7. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
8. Appoint committees, viz: (a) On devotional exercises; (b) State of religion; (c) Deceased Ministers; (d) Documents; (e) Finance committee; (f) Committee on time and place of meeting.
9. Call for report of Executive committee, or board.
10. Saturday morning—Religious exercises, one-half hour.
11. Miscellaneous business.
12. Appoint messengers to corresponding bodies.
13. Call for Treasurer's report.
14. Call for reports of standing committees in the order of their appointments.
15. Report of other committees in their order.
16. Appoint time and place of next meeting and the preacher of the Introductory Sermon and the alternate.
17. Miscellaneous business.
18. Read the minutes, call the roll and adjourn.

PETITIONARY LETTERS. Mt. Pleasant, J. M. Roberts; Bethel, C. M. Kerby, Isaac Bradford, A. J. Looney; Mt. Stanley, J. W. McDaniel, W. B. Flannagin, J. B. Cotton; Liberty, W. B. Clayton, M. B. McGregor, J. M. Roberts.

Motion to receive the above churches was carried. The hand of fellowship was given the delegates by the Moderator and members.

VISITORS. The following visitors were present and invited to seats in this body; J. O. A. Pace, J. S. Gibson, of Muscle Shoals Association; J W. Sandlin, of the State Board of Missions; J. W. Yates, of Mission Grove church; E. M. Lindsey, of Big Bear Creek Association.

Bro. A. L. Moody, was called to the chair, the Moderator being excused for the balance of the evening.

COMMITTEES. Devotional, the deacons of Tuscumbia church, also Bros. Clayton, Looney and Aycock, J. Q. State of Religion, Nesmith, Whitlock and Roberts. Documents, Kerby, Womble, Aycock, J. Q.; Finance, Womble, Clayton, and Roberts; Sabbath-schools, Stamps, McDaniel and Comstock, sr.

REPORTS. The committe on devotion reported as follows:

"We, your committee beg leave to report the following: We request brother Sandlin hold services for us this evening at 7.30, and brother Roberts, to hold devotional services for the body to-morrow at 9.30 a. m.

Deacons of this Church,
CLAYTON, W. A.
LOONEY, A. J.
AYCOCK, J. Q.

FOREIGN MISSIONS. Dear brethren: We, your committee, make the following report: Let us see first, what has been done in Foreign lands; less than one hundred years ago the Nations of earth were in ignorance of the Gospel. As a result, superstition and idolatry joined to keep out, or destroy, the Missionary. While to-day the Missionary goes everywhere as the messenger of peace and light, love to God and all mankind. Thoburn of India said in an address, "that since he had gone out, the door had been opened to over 700,000,000 people."

Formerly ignorance of language stood in the way, now 360 languages join in praise to our God. Some of these languages were not even written until the Missionary rendered that useful service, so as to teach of God and His truths. In this large number of languages a part, or all of the word of God has been translated. This alone

means much for the future. Judson prayed that he might live to translate the scriptures and lived to see 7,361 converts: Among the Telugus' in 1866 there was 11 baptisms and 38 members. In 1889 there was 6,000 baptisms and 40,000 members. In Africa it is estimated that there are over 17,000 conversions annually. India formerly furnished forty women a day to be burned with their husbands; all this has been done away with, and the religion of Jesus Christ has gone into thousands of hearts and homes. In 1872 the first church was organized in Japan, now there are 365 churches, and 35,000 members, 359 theological students, and 223 ordained native preachers.

Brethren, time would fail me to tell of others, where God has, and is, blessing our work. Let us therefore take courage and press forward with our hearts, prayers and means to this God given work,

Respectfully submitted;

NESMITH, J. R. Chmn.

A motion that the discussion of Missions be at 9.30 a. m., tomorrow, or, immediately after religious service. Carried.

Motion to adjourn until 7.30 p. m. to night, and for business at 9.30 a m., Saturday, 16th October. Carried.

Closing prayer by Elder Gibson, J. S.

NIGHT SERVICE.

The attendance upon this service was good, and the sermon by Elder Sandlin, J. W. was of full thought for the hearers, and was enjoyed. There is no doubt, but that there will be a great harvest from the Gospel seed sowing to-night.

SECOND DAY.

SATURDAY, October 16, 1897.

Meeting called to order by singing song 721. Reading of scripture, Psalm 71, by Elder Roberts; Prayer by Elder Stamps; song 715; Prayer by Elder Vincent, song 721. Moderator not being present, brother Moody was called to the chair. Minutes of Friday read and approved.

VISITORS PRESENT. Vincent, J. C., Cherokee; Lynch, Prof. C. G., Russellville; Brown, W. S., Florence.

REPORTS. Your committee on Home Missions, submit the following report. It is gratifying to us to know that the efforts of the Home Board have not been in vain, but, God has graciously blessed their efforts during the last conventional year, notwithstanding the great opposition that our Missionaries have had to contend with. Yet, under God, they have been enabled to lead many precious souls to Christ. With these facts before us, we are encouraged to say to this Association, brethren, let us stand by our Home Board with our Prayers and MEANS. For we are co-laborers together in the salvation of the lost.

Brethren, let us "attempt great things for God, and expect great things from God." Respectfully submitted,

AYCOCK, W. E., Chmn.

We, your committee on State Missions, make the following report: We learn through the State Mission Journal, and other sources, that we have six Evangelists in the state and at work in the following fields, Northeast, Bro. Burns; Southeast, Bro. Preston; Southwest, Bro. Parke; Central, Bro. Dickson; East, Bro. Anderson and Northwest, Bro. Sandlin. From our own observation; and report of others, it

gives us pleasure to say that great good has been accomplished. The work has awakened our churches to a higher and hollier living, with a more consecrated zeal for God.

The State Board of Missions is a created body of Baptist of Alabama for special work, to-wit, (a) In collecting and remitting contributions for Foreign and Home Missions. (b) Helping weak churches in important points, where otherwise Baptist churches could not be established. (c) In prosecuting evangelistic work in the state at large, for the further evangilizing and enlisting our people in christian work. (d) In doing Missionary and Colportage work where such is needed. (e) Caring for Aged and disabled Ministers, their widows and orphans against want. (f) In seeking to foster a spirit of fellowship and co-operation between the Churches in the Master's service, bringing them to contribute to each other in upbuilding and mutual usefulness. It will therefore be seen that the work of this Board is far reaching and of the most vital importance. It calls for our money, our hearts, and our prayers.

We, your committee, therefore recommend and urge that when the funds are divided among the various causes that this Association may foster, that the State Board be given a liberal share. We further recommend, that the churches of this Association take frequent collections, and work for liberal contributions for our State work.

Respectfuly submitted,

WHITLOCK, W. M. Chmn.

After these reports were read, remarks were made by the following Brethren: Nesmith, Whitlock, Roberts, Stamps, Vincent, Pace, Gibson, Moody, Sandlin and Brown. After the discussions song 544 was sung.

Bro. Stamps was called to the chair. It was moved that a collection or pledges for Missions be now taken, carried.

CHURCHES.

Bethel,	$ 10 00	Sheffield,	25 00
Cherokee,	5 00	Siloam,	5 00
Furnace Hill,	10 00	Tuscumbia,	10 00
Liberty,	20 00	Tuscumbia Sunday School,	10 00
Mt. Stanley,	10 00	Valley Grove,	10 00
Mt. Pleasant,	5 00		
Riverton,	10 00	Total, . .	$ 130 00

INDIVIDUALS.

Aycock, J. Q.	$ 2 50	*Nesmith, Mrs. P. G. (pd)	1 00
Aycock, W. E.	2 50	Reeves, J. L. . . (paid)	1 00
Aycock, Stephen	2 50	Roberts, J. M.	1 00
Aycock, Mrs. M. A. . . .	1 00	Roberts, H. C.	1 00
Aycock, Mrs. W. E. . . .	1 00	Roberts, A. A.	1 00
Bradford, Isaac	1 00	Roberts, O. C.	1 00
Bradley, Mrs. Stev. (paid)	1 00	Roberts, Ethel	1 00
Clayton, W. H. (paid)	50	Roberts, Sallie	1 00
Comstock, sr. O. E. . . .	5 00	Sandlin, J. W. . . (paid)	1 00
Gibson, J. S.	1 00	Stamps, Mack	2 50
Grishan, Shelby . (paid)	1 00	Thomason, R. L. . . .	1 00
Ivie, A. J.	2 50	Turner, Mrs. W. H. . .	1 00
Kerby, C. M.	1 00	Walker, Dr. David (pd)	1 00
Lindsay, E. M.	2 00	Whitlock, W. M.	2 50
Looney, A. J.	1 00	Womble, C. A.	1 00
Moody, A. L.	5 00	Vincent, J. C. (for A. M.)	5 00
Moody, A. F.	1 00	Vincent, J. C. (50 & 2.50)	3 00
Morris, Dr. Charles T. .	2 50		
		Total, ...	$ 60 00

* This sum was given by Bro. Nesmith in memory of his wife, who always sent that amount to the Association when living.

A motion to adjourn until two p. m. was carried. Song, doxology. Benediction.

EVENING SESSION.

Meeting called to order at two o'clock. Song 676.

Prayer by brother Reeves, J. L.

PETITIONARY LETTER: Minot Chapel petitioned for membership, Delegate, Elder Reeves, J. L. Letter received and delegate given the hand of fellowship by the Moderator in behalf of the Association.

REPORTS: The Committee on Education reported as follows:

BRETHREN:—This is a subject that has claimed the attention of the brainiest men in all ages; but, never has it been so general as at the present day. The time was when our people were satisfied with their children merely learning to read and write, but we rejoice to say this is no longer the case. We have not only State but denominational schools for the training of men and women for the duties of life. The most remote rural districts are asking for schools in order to educate their children for the responsibilities of

life which they realize are upon them, and if they cannot get schools at home they are sending their children off to colleges and universities.

We recommend that the claims of our denominational schools be presented to the people and they urged to patronize these, all other things being equal; but, as an Association, we deem it unwise to adopt any particular school as our own, but work for the good of all.

Respectfully submitted,

STAMPS, MACK, Chm.

Remarks by Brethren Moody, Sandlin, Pace and Brown.

Report adopted.

The following resolution was read and adopted:

RESOLUTION: Resolved, That this Association recommend that the pastors of the churches take up a collection quarterly for Brother Bendall. (Signed)

WHITLOCK, W. M.

COMSTOCK, SR., O. E.

We, your committee on Temperance, make the following report:

TEMPERANCE. The temperance cause is a good cause. The Bible teaches it. Then God's children should teach it everywhere. First, by example; second, in our families; third, in our churches and Sabbath-schools. Then let us as a denomination discourage intemperance in everything, and ESPECIALLY in the USE of INTOXICATING drinks. Respectfully submitted,

AYCOCK, J. Q., Chm.

Supplementary report. "BE IT RESOLVED, That any church who "will tolerate ANY MEMBER who signs a whiskey petition shall be con- "sidered out of order and shall be excluded from this Association."

Remarks by Brethren Brown, Comstock and Vincent. The report and supplement was adopted.

The Moderator appointed the following committee: Brethren Morris; Aycock, J. Q., and Roberts, on time, place of meeting and name of pastor for annual sermon.

The Florence Association, through their moderator, Elder W. S. Brown, invited the body to meet with them on Friday before the first Sunday in August, 1898, which was accepted and as many of the delegates who could to attend.

We, your Committee on Documents, report as follows:

DOCUMENTS. We find eleven letters from the churches. These letters report three Sabbath-schools, and three prayer meetings regularly kept up. Two churches asks for the Association, viz: Liberty and Valley Grove. Respectfully submitted,

WOMBLE, C. A., Chm.
ROBERTS, J. M.
KERBY, C. M.

The committee's report was adopted.

We, your Committee on the State of Religion, report favRELIGION. orably all along the line. There is an advance, especially is this so with the Colbert Association. We call attention this part of the Scripture: "Press forward to the mark for the prize of the high calling of God, as it is in Christ Jesus."

Respectfully submitted,

NESMITH, J. R., Chm.

Brethren, we your Committee on Sunday-Schools, beg
SUNDAY- leave to report: We have noticed but few of our churches
SCHOOLS. have reported this very important department of church work. However, we hope that all of our churches have Sunday-Schools; but, if such be not the case, we most earnestly urge each church to sustain one. Also, that in the future they make a report to this body of this department of our work.

Respectfully submitted,

STAMPS, MACK, Chm.

Remarks by Brethern Nesmith, Gibson, Stamps.

Report adopted.

Robertson, J. S., Pastor of the M. E. Church, was among the visitors this afternoon.

Brethren, We, your committee, beg leave to report that
NEXT Bro. Whitlock, W. M., preach the introductory sermon,
SESSION. with Bro. Comstock, sr., O. E., alternate, and that the Association meet with Liberty Church, Thursday, before the third Sunday in October, 1898. MORRIS, C. T.

AYCOCK, J. Q.

Adopted. ROBERTS, J. M., Committee.

Finance Committee's Report. See Financial Exhibit.

On motion the following brethren were made a special committee to visit Florence Association. Stamps, Mack; Roberts, J. M.; Womble, C. A.

Bro. Bolling, J. D., came as a delegate from Cherokee, Bro. Carter not being able to come.

On motion of Bro. Stamps and adopted "any member present at an Association is hereby considered a delegate from this Assoeiation."

STATE CONVENTION

The following Brethern were appointed delegates to the State Convention that convenes at Birmingham: Roberts, J. M.; Stamps, Mack; Comstock, sr., O. E. and Ivie, A. J.

Delegate to Southern Baptist Convention: Stamps, Mack; Comstock, sr., O. E., alternate.

DEVOTIONAL.

Brethren, we your Committee on Devotional Exercises make the following report: At this Church, Bro. Roberts at 7:30 to-night; Bro. Gibson at 11 a. m. Sunday, Bro. Pace, J. O. A., 11 a. m. at First Church, Sheffield; Bro. Whitlock, 11 a. m. at Furnace Hill. Bro. Roberts at Spring Valley at 7:30 p. m. Bro. Reeves at Furnace Hill at 7:30 p. m.; Bro. Whitlock at First Church, Sheffield, 7:30 p. m. Bro. J. O. A. Pace at Houston X Roads at 7:30 p. m.

Deacons Tuscumbia Church,
CLAYTON, W. H.
LOONEY, A. J.
AYCOCK, J. Q.

Adopted.

THANKS.

Resolved, That we, the delegates and visitors, express our sincere thanks to the Tuscumbia Church and the citizens of Tuscumbia for their kind hospitality.

Adopted. STAMPS, MACK.

MINUTES.

Resolved, That this association pay our Clerk for his services ten dollars and that we have 200 copies of the minutes printed; same to be paid out of any unexpended money in the treasury. MOODY, A. L.

Adopted.

The Executive Committee reported $4.30 collected at Fifth Sunday meeting and same expended for Ministerial Education.

The following was received from the delegates appointed by Big Bear Creek Association: "This is to certify that W. C. Summers and M. W. Daily were appointed by our Association as corresponding delegates to the Colbert Association when convened, and as we cannot be present with you we recommend that you welcome our worthy brother, E. M. Lindsay, to a seat with you. M. W. DAILY,
W. C. SUMMERS.

Adjourned to meet with Liberty Church, Town Creek, October, 1898.

Closing prayer by Rev. J. S. Robertson, of Tuscumbia M. E. Church, which was fervent and touching. A song was sung and the parting hand given.

O. E. COMSTOCK, SR.,
Clerk.

A. J. IVIE,
Moderator.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT.

Churches.	Associational Missions..	Home and State Missions	Foreign Missions	Ministerial Education.	Orphan's Home.	Individual Pledges..	Minutes.....
Tuscumbia,		$3.80		.....		.....	$ 1.10
Cherokee,		.....		.....		.....	.70
Bethel,	$1.50	.....		.....		....	1.00
Riverton,		1.75		.....		.....	1.25
Furnace Hill,		.....		.....		.....	1.00
Mt. Stanley,		.....		.....		.....	.80
Liberty,		.....		.....		.....	1.00
Minot,		.....		.....		.....	1.00
Siloam,		.....		.....		.....	1.00
Valley Grove,		.....		.....		.....	1.00
Sheffield,		.....		.....		.....	2.50
Bro. Lindsay (Visitor)		.....		.....		.....	.25
Individual Pledges,		.....		.....		$7.50	.....
Total,	$1.50	$5.55	.....	.....	.....	$7.50	$12.60

Total amount collected, $26.15.

We, your committee, report the above amount received from all sources and ask to be received and discharged.

WOMBLE, C. A., Chm.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF COLBERT ASSOCIATION.

Churches.	Sunday-School	Membership.	Meetings	Prayer Meetings	Pastor.	Postoffice.	Clerk.	Postoffice.	Financial Statement. State Missions.	Foreign Miss.	Min. Education	Missions...	Value of Ch'h Prop.	Expenses.	Poor Fund	Sunday-S. Expenses.	Associat'l Purposes.
Bethel	...	180	1st S	.....	Summers, W. C....	Littleville...	Kirby, C. C.....	Avoca	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cherokee	...	71	.....	.....	Whitlock, W. M...	Cherokee.....	Finnie, J. E.....	Cherokee ...	$ 1.25	.....	$ 1.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Furnace Hill...	80	40	E. S	EW	Comstock, O. E., sr.	Sheffield.....	Bridges, G. W.....	Sheffield ...	.....	.....	5.00	$ 1.50	$ 200 00	$60.00	$10 00	$ 5.00	.....
Liberty	...	80	...	.....	Roberts, J. M	Town Creek	Odele, M.....	Town Creek	.....	.....	.....	1.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Minot Chapel	....	11	2 1S	A....	Reeves, J. L.....	Cherokee....	Miller, Geo.....	Cherokee ...	.....	.....	.....	1.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mt. Stanley..	...	65	.....	.....	Roberts, J. M.....	Town Creek	Bowling, H. W....	Town Creek	.....	.....	.....	.70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Riverton.....	20	55	.....	.....	Stockton, J. S.....	Pleasant Site	Griffin, Thos.....	Riverton.....	.....	.....	.....	1.25	.....	.....	.....	.....	$ 1.75
Tuscumbia. ...	60	113	.....	.....	.....	.....	Womble, C. A.....	Tuscumbia...	.....	.....	.....	.....	3000 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sheffield.	79	68	E. S	E.W	Stamps, Mack ...	Sheffield	Mays, Will B.	Sheffield. ...	.....	.....	.....	2.50	1000 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Valley Grove.	...	105	3d S	.....	Nesmith, Jno. R...	Avoca	Cullender, H. T...	Leighton.....	.....	.....	.....	1.00	150.00	.....	.....	.....	.....

H 23 9 6 91

8.50